

AN OLIVE GREEN NO DEAL

Have you actually read the Green New Deal — I mean **the Democrats' version** under the same name but radically different from the Green Party's version. It includes "funding massive investment in the drawdown and capture of greenhouse gases," but **no mention of the military** as a top emitter of carbon, and **no mention of the military** as the place where all the money goes that could be most easily moved into any useful "massive investment." Instead, the **Olive Green NeoLiberal Deal** reads: "Many will say, 'Massive government investment! How in the world can we pay for this?' The answer is: in the same ways that we paid for the 2008 bank bailout and extended quantitative easing programs, the same ways we paid for World War II and many other wars. The Federal Reserve can extend credit to power these projects and investments, new public banks can be created (as in WWII) to extend credit and a combination of various taxation tools (including taxes on carbon and other emissions and progressive wealth taxes) can be employed."

To read this as anything other than a conscious and explicit commitment to continuing to dump **\$1 trillion per year** into the most environmentally destructive program ever devised, while seeking out any other possible way except war tax cuts to pay for a "green deal" would be delusional. If the military budget's existence were **going to be acknowledged**, it would **have been acknowledged** here.

The exclusion of the world's **worst environmental destroyer** from environmentalism is not new. It is enshrined in the Kyoto and Paris agreements. It is embodied in the work of all of the biggest environmental organizations. Leading up to the April 2017 Climate March in Washington, D.C., many of us raised as much hell as we could, until **a little peace ghetto** was permitted in part of the march. I'm not sure that doing that for any of the upcoming rallies for the Green New Deal makes sense. I think Congresswoman-Elect Alexandria Ocasio-Cortez and her colleagues should **admit** that the military exists and **act** accordingly.

Most countries on earth have the U.S. military **in them**. Most countries on earth **burn less fossil fuel** than does the U.S. military. And that's without even calculating how much worse for the climate **jet fuel** is than other fossil fuels. And it's without even considering the fossil fuel consumption of the **world's leading weapons makers**, or the pollution caused by the **use of those weapons** all over the world. The U.S. is **the top** weapons dealer to the world, and has weapons on **multiple sides** of most wars. The U.S. military created **69% of super fund environmental disaster sites** and is the **third leading polluter** of U.S. waterways.

What came first? The wars or the oil? It was the wars. Wars and the preparations for more wars **consume** a huge amount of oil. But the wars are indeed fought for control of oil. So-called foreign intervention in civil wars is, according to comprehensive studies, **100 times more likely** — not where there is suffering, not where there is cruelty, not where there is a threat to the world, but where the country at war **has large reserves of oil** or the intervener has a **high demand** for oil.

When the British first developed an obsession with the Middle East, passed along to the United States, the desire was to **fuel the British Navy** thanks to then Admiralty Chief Winston Churchill. He was looking to end British dependence on coal.

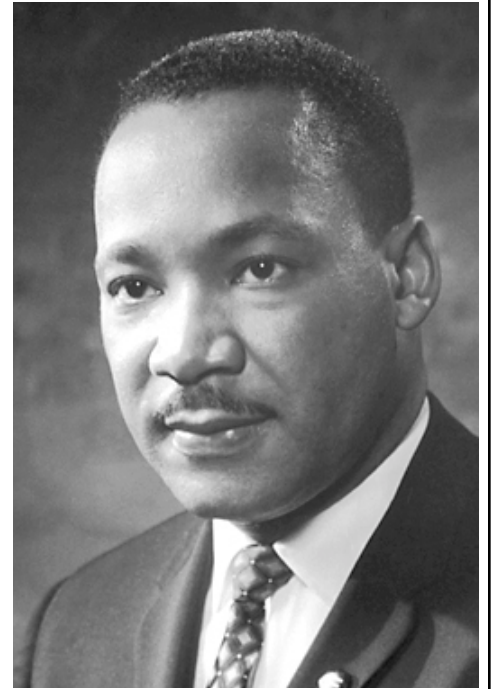
Coal miners played crucial roles in major labor struggles after WW I. Ruthless as always, Churchill even considered using surplus poison gas from the war on unruly Iraqis!

When we say **No More Coal**, we need to learn to automatically add **No More Wars** for Oil and **No More Oil** for Wars. You **know who agrees** with that? **Pre-presidential** campaigner Donald Trump. On December 6, 2009, on page 8 of the *New York Times* a letter to President Obama printed as an advertisement and signed by Trump called climate change **an immediate challenge**. "Please don't postpone the earth," it said. "If we fail to act now, it is **scientifically irrefutable** that there will be catastrophic and irreversible consequences for humanity and our planet." In fact, Trump is now acting to speed up those climate consequences, an action **prosecutable** as a crime against humanity by the International Criminal Court. It's also a crime **impeachable** by the United States Congress — at least if there's some way to involve sex in it. **Say it with me: No More Wars For Oil! No More Oil for Wars! Holding this government accountable is up to us.**

David Swanson wants you to declare peace at WorldBeyondWar.org
His new book is **War No More: The Case for Abolition.**

Martin Luther King Jr.

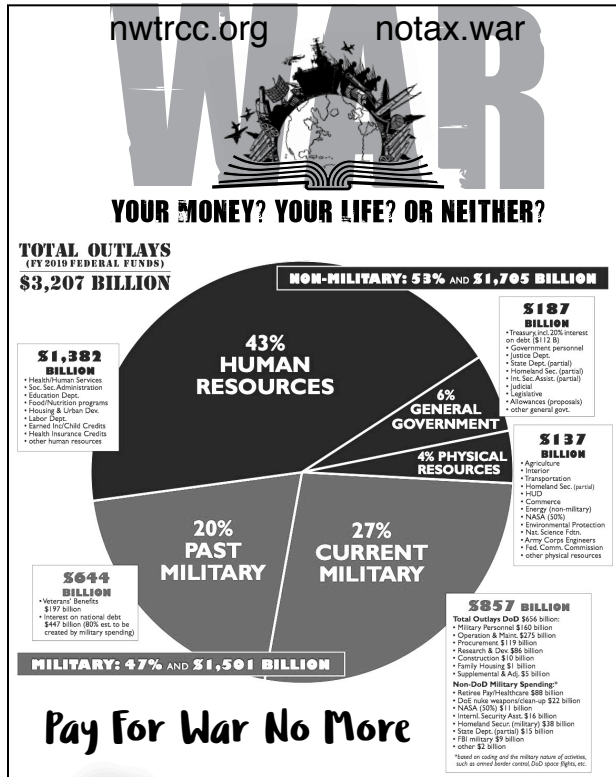
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